India through bringing in more area under castor cultivation and using improved hybrid castorseeds;

(b) whether Government are aware that Castor oil and its value added derivatives are much sought after in international markets, fetching a good price for the grower; and

(c) whether Government would consider subsidising castor seed cultivation in new areas like Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Castor oil and its derivatives are in good demand in international market and castrol oil is being exported in substantial quantity from our country.

(c) Assistance is provided under Centrally Sponsored Oilseed Production Programme (OPP) to promote production of castor seed in castor growing States such as Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

4053. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the International Fund for Agricultural Dvelopment (IFAD) is looking for new projects to fund in India, in the areas of rural integrated development and poverty alleviation;

(b) if so, whether any particular project has so far been identified for such assistance and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Central Government has received any such proposal from the Government of Karnataka seeking assistance from overseas funding agenices, and if so, whether the Central Government would propose such proposal for IFAD assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Support Prices for Crops

4054. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the support prices fixed by Government of India for the current crops of wheat, gram, oil-seeds, etc. in the country; and

(b) whether Government propose to enhance the support prices for the products of above crops at the time of their arrival in the market in view of the high cost of production and increase in the prices of diesel and power and agricultural machinery ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The minimum support prices fixed by the Government for the current rabi crops of 1993-94 to be marketed in 1994-95 are as follows :—

Commodity	Variety	Minimum Support Price (Rs. per Quintal)
Wheat . . .	FAQ	350
Barley . . .	,,	275
Gram . . .	,,	640
Rapeseed/Mustard .	,,	810
Safflower . . .	,,	760
Toria . . .	,,	780

(b) At present there is no proposal under consideration to enhance support prices already fixed for the current rabi crop. The minimum support prices have been fixed after taking into account the report of the CACP views of the State Governments, concerned Central ministries and relevant factors.

Bureaucracy in ICAR and Allied Institutions

4055. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that ICAR and allied institutions which are very vital for research education and extension of agriculture in the country have become bureaucratic and thus outdated and absolete education is prevalent in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, whether Indian farmers are lacking behind farmers of foreign countries in agricultural products/production;

(c) whether in view of the onslaught of the GATT agreement and liberalisation of policies,the ICAR and allied institutions will be able to cope with challenges of low agricultural production; and

(d) whether Government propose to revamp the ICAR and allied institutions to make these a vehicle of change, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.